(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) While there is no such plan for withdrawal of hank yarn obligation order, there is a need to rationalise this obligation order, keeping in view the need to fully meet the requirements of the handloom industry.

Concessions for Families of Kargil Heroes in Educational Institutions

*344. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving concessions for admission in colleges and in other institutions to the families of heroes killed in the recent Kargil war; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No specific concession for admission in colleges and other institutions has been given to the families of Defence personnel killed in Kargil operation. However, the children of the Defence Personnel, including those killed in action, are entitled to various educational concessions, including the reservation of seats in schools and colleges.

2. Twenty-five per cent reservation is provided for the wards of serving and retired Defence personnel for admission in Sainik Schools.

3. In the Military Schools, sixty-seven per cent of the seats are reserved for the wards of JCO/OR level Defence personnel and twenty per cent of the seats are reserved for the wards of Officer level Defence personnel.

4. Twenty-eight seats in MBBS course in colleges under the control of Ministry of Health; one seat in BDS course; and two seats in the Engineering course under the Annamalai University are reserved for the wards of Defence Personnel. The wards of Defence Personnel Killed in action are given first priority.

5. Two seats in each of the Indian Institute of Technology at Bombay. Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras and in the Banaras Hindu University Institute of Technology are reserved for the children of Defence/Para Military Force personnel killed or permanently disabled in action. The candidates are required to qualify in the joint entrance examination conducted every year.

6. The State Governments have also made reservation of seats in schools and colleges for the wards of Defence personnel. Most of the States provide free education up to graduation level.

Grants to NGOs of Assam

*345. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of total grants provided by Government to all the NGOs in Assam during the last three years, for rural development;

(b) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated to NGOs have not been utilised in the State:

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) As per information received from Council for Advacement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), the grants provided to the NGOs in Assam during the last three years is about Rs. 193 lakhs.

(b) to (d) The NGOs have utilised about 63% of the amount released during the last three years. The remaining amount is in the process of utilisation by the Voluntary Organisations as the projects are at various stages of implementation.

Incentive Schemes for Textile Industry

†*346. SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL:

SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of incentive schemes for development and expansion of textile industry in the country had been implemented by Government;

(b) if so, the names of schemes decided to be implemented during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(c) the names and details of schemes, out of them, which were implemented for promoting mills, powerloom and handloom industry, separately?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of important schemes implemented for development of textile industry in the country during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) The names and details of some of the important schemes implemented primarily for promoting powerloom, and handloom is given in Statement-II (*See* below). There were no specific programmes during these years for the mill sector. The Government was, however, providing funds to the Textile Research Associations for undertaking research, which also benefit the mill sector. In addition a large network of laboratories through upgradation or setting up of new centres was established for providing testing facilities to the textile units at easy distance. The Government has also launched the Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS) on Ist April 1999 for five years. The Scheme seeks to facilitate the availability of loans from financial Institutions with reimbursement of 5 percentage points on interest by Government. Any textile unit,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.